

ABBOTTS HALL FARM VISITS



ESSEX
Wildlife Trust



KS 2/3/4

Abbotts Hall Farm has been owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust since 2000 to support wildlife whilst making a profit. Wide field margins and beetle banks allow predators of crop pests to flourish. Crops include winter wheat, conservation grade oats for Jordan's cereal bars, oil seed rape for oil, ancient spelt flour and bird seed and we have grazing for sheep and lambs in the spring.

In 2002 in a pioneer project, parts of the sea wall along the farm were breached to allow the sea to find its natural levels. Abbotts Hall is a practical demonstration of a sustainable approach to coastal defences. Since the breach, coastal marsh has colonised the arable land beyond the sea wall providing a fine example of salt marsh habitat.

ABBOTTS HALL FARM WORKSHOPS

FARM TOUR (1 hour approx)

An introduction to the farm and an insight into sustainable farming methods; breaching of the sea wall; history; management; crops and farming subsidies.

SALTMARSH DATA SAMPLING

Sample a new saltmarsh habitat, created since the breaching of the sea wall. Use transects, ranging poles and id keys and plot the data to examine a fine example of spacial zonation containing a good variety of salt marsh plant species.

HABITAT SAMPLING (1 to 2 hours)

Sample the ponds, beetle banks, wide field margins using pond nets, sweep nets pots and transects and identify the invertebrates using books and keys. Use the results to discuss the effectiveness of habitats such as these for natural pest control.



SCHOOLS
OUTREACH
OFFICER

Laura Harvey

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Essex Wildlife Trust Schools Outreach

LAND USE (1 hour approx)

Use maps before and after the breach of the sea wall and before and after Essex Wildlife Trust took on the farm to study land use on the farm. Using maps plot the current land use of the farm.

FOOD MILES (1 hour approx)

Teams take a shopping basket with common food and use world maps and UK maps with scale rulers to give the food miles of each food item.

NAME THE GRAIN (45 minutes approx)

Identify the seeds that are grown on the farm and match them to the end products such as bread, bird food or cooking oil.

SITE DETAILS

All activities led by qualified staff
All equipment provided
Visits from 9.30am – 2.45 pm
Pre visits available on request.
Each activity is risk assessed.
Under cover seating (not heated), toilets and hand washing facilities
We cater for all learning needs

BOOKINGS AND DETAILS

Tel 01621 862992 (Office day Monday) Mob: 07533376783
Email: laurah@essexwt.org.uk
Website: www.essexwt.org.uk
We request a donation of £6 per KS2 pupil and £7.50 for KS3/4
(minimum donation £50 half day and £100 full day)
To book or for more details Email: laurah@essexwt.org.uk



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Breaching of sea wall 2002

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